

PN 6/82

P1 676

NPS
INVENTORYNational Park Service
Pacific Northwest Region
Cultural Resources DivisionWestin Building, F 1920
2001 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98121

1. SITE I.D. NO

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2. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

(CARD 1 of 2)

Mt. Freemont Fire Lookout

5. ORIGINAL USE

Fire Lookout

7. CLASSIFICATION

9. RATING

10. DATE

1934

3. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO)

Sunrise Vicinity, S-053

6. PRESENT USE

Visitor Info.
and Interpretation

8.

UTM ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

11. REGION

SCALE

1:24

1:62.5

QUAD

OTHER

NAME

4. CITY/VICINITY

Sunrise

COUNTY

Pierce

STATE

Washington

12. OWNER/ADMIN ADDRESS

NPS/Mount Rainier National Park, Tahoma Woods-Star Route, Ashford, Washington 98304

13. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, MAJOR ALTERATIONS, EXISTANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, ETC.

Timber frame; two-stories; square in plan; hip cedar-shingle roof with projecting eaves; 1 x 8 horizontal lap siding; 2nd floor, 2' x 10" wide wrap-around balcony supported by wood brackets; exterior wood stairs from ground to 2nd floor; fixed sashes on all four sides of 2nd floor; concrete foundation; wire rope guys anchored to concrete deadmen; first floor storage; concrete slab; tongue-and-groove walls; 2nd floor living quarters with fire finder in center, painted tongue-and-groove walls, wood floor.

During the 1934 season, four new fire lookouts were constructed atop Crystal Peak, Tolmie Peak, Gobbler's Knob, and Mount Freemont. Construction work was carried out by the National Park Service in conjunction with the Emergency Conservation Works Association. The ECW was responsible for much of the trail blazing to the lookout sites along with transporting materials for construction. By 1935, a total of seven lookouts provided Mount Rainier National Park with fire detection service.

The Mount Freemont lookout, located about two miles north of Yakima Park (Sunrise) at elevation 7181 feet, was built from the standard design plans developed in the early thirties. The "Standard Lookout House - Type No.1, For all Parks" was created by the NPS Western Division, Branch of Plans and Design with Edward A. Nickel (CONT'D)

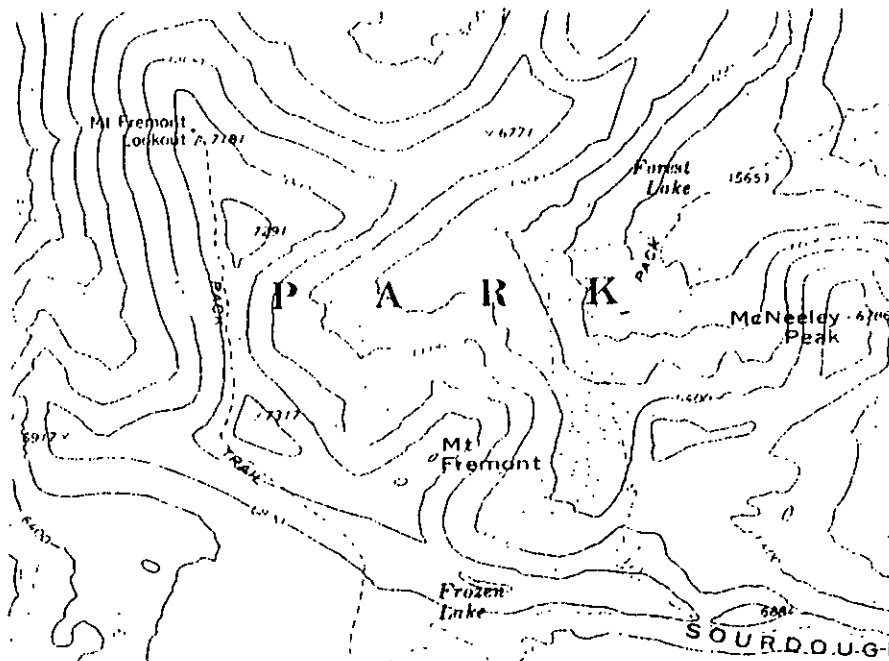
14. CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☒ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS15. DANGER OF DEMOLITION?
(SPECIFY THREAT)☐ YES☐ NO☒ UNKNOWN

16. SIGNIFICANCE

Mt. Freemont Fire Lookout is one of four such remaining facilities at Mount Rainier National Park. They were all built to standard plans between 1932-34. The plans for lookout houses were developed in the early thirties by the NPS Western Division, Branch of Plans and Design. The ECW was involved in the construction of the Mt. Freemont Lookout.

The remaining lookouts have played a significant role in the protection of natural resources in the park and surrounding national forest lands. Although aerial fire detection has reduced the importance of the lookouts they still function as a backcountry patrol base during extreme fire danger periods. Primarily they are used for interpretation and visitor assistance.



Original Drawing "Standard Lookout House - Type No.1, For all Parks," NPS Branch of Plans Design, by Edward A. Nickel, Acting Chief Architect, 4/27/34 (MORA DRG. NO.95).

18 LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> NAME			
19 PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES, LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> YES, UNLIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN		20. EXISTING SURVEYS <input type="checkbox"/> NR <input type="checkbox"/> NHL <input type="checkbox"/> HABS <input type="checkbox"/> HAER-1 <input type="checkbox"/> HAER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NPS <input type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER	
21 REFERENCES—HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER					
Building File S-053, Maintenance Division, Mount Rainier National Park; Individual Building Data, prepared c.1962.					
Arthur David Martinson, "Mountain in the Sky: A History of Mount Rainier National Park," Ph.d. dissertation, Washington State University, 1966, p.138.					
Erwin N. Thompson, <u>Mount Rainier National Park, Washington: Historic Resource Study</u> , (Denver, CO: NPS, 1981), pp.173-4.					
Robert L. Carper, <u>List of Classified Structures Inventory</u> , (Denver, CO: NPS, 1976).					
Robert N. McIntyre, "Short History of Mount Rainier National Park," (1952) unpublished manuscript, Archives, Mount Rainier National Park, pp.269 and 272.					
22. INVENTORIED BY		AFFILIATION		DATE	
GGF		MORA Cultural Resource Survey		8/18/82	

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2. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

(CARD 2 of 2)

Mount Freemont Fire Lookout

3. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO)

Sunrise Vicinity, S-053

5. ORIGINAL USE

Fire Lookout

6. PRESENT USE

Visitor Info.
and Interpretation

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(Associate Structural Engineer) supervising the design. Typically, the wood frame buildings measured 14' x 14' and contained two stories. The ground floor was used for storage and the one room, upper floor contained a fire finder, charts and supplies, a bed, and cooking facilities. Large fixed-glass windows were on all four sides and a cantilevered balcony, 2' x 10" wide, wrapped around the second floor. The lookouts were founded on concrete and wire rope guys connected to concrete deadmen anchored the structures to the ground. This was done to provide lateral stability during severe wind conditions that the exposed lookouts were often subjected to. Indeed, shortly after its completion, a windstorm destroyed the Mount Freemont lookouts hip roof. The building was immediately repaired. It was then occupied, primarily during times of extreme fire danger. Fire spotting by airplane eventually superseded the stationary lookouts. Four lookout houses remain in the park and all are generally used for visitor assistance and interpretation.

14. CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☐ GOOD

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☐ RUINS

15. DANGER OF DEMOLITION?
(SPECIFY THREAT)

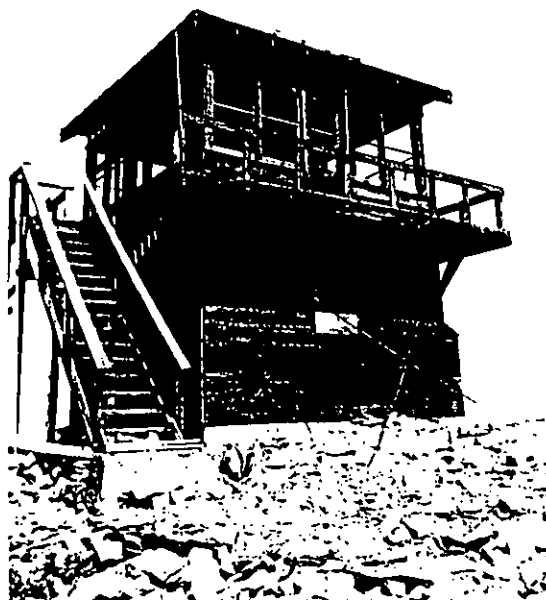
☐ YES

☐ NO

☐ UNKNOWN

16. SIGNIFICANCE

17. PHOTOS AND SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION



18. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?

☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ NAME

19. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

☐ YES, LIMITED ☐ YES, UNLIMITED
☐ NO ☐ UNKNOWN

20. EXISTING SURVEYS

☐ NR ☐ NHL ☐ HABS ☐ HAER-1 ☐ HAER ☐ NPS ☐ STATE
☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL ☐ OTHER

21. REFERENCES—HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER

22. INVENTORIED BY

AFFILIATION

DATE